Indian citizens in foreign jails

1057. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Indian citizens, particularly from Punjab, have been languishing in foreign jails without trial after being duped by travel agents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any initiative have been taken for conduct of screening of these detained individuals jointly with the authorities of the respective countries of their detention with a view to obtain their release from the jails and repatriation to India;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Parity of PIO card holders with NRIs

1058. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 429 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th July, 2005 and state:

(a) whether question of parity of Person of Indian Origin (PIO) card holders with NRIs in aviation sector including domestic airlines has since been examined;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Prime Minister has issued dual citizenship cards to PIOs at Pravasi Bhartiya Divas in Hyderabad in January, 2006; and

(d) if so, what would be the status of PIOs in respect of 100 percent FDI by them in aviation sector after they receive dual citizenship status?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) The matter is still under consideration of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(c) Yes.